



# **Asia and Pacific Disability Forum**

## **3rd General Assembly and Conference**

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Bangladesh**

**Approaches in national  
comprehensive planning  
concerning disabilities:**

**The experiences of Hong Kong in  
coping with past turmoil and  
challenges of the new decade**

Dr. Joseph Kwok

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- A large black left bracket and a large gold right bracket are positioned at the top of the slide. A horizontal line with a gold-to-white gradient runs across the slide, starting from the left edge and ending at the gold bracket.
- **Unprecedented challenges encountered by Hong Kong in the mid 1990s**
  - **Policy planning approach and mechanism before 1997: White Papers and Programme Plans**

## ■ A long overdue government directed reforms to social services

- Demand and supply estimates were mainly target population based
- Services monitoring was basically input control
- Output performance was seldom used as an indicator for change.
- Resulted a proliferation of services, and a growing dependency of NGOs on government for funding

## Government reforms since late 1990s

Looking at ways to allocate scarce resources in the most effective way possible cover the following sectors: financial, social service, medical, education, and the civil service.

The overall aim is to ensure public social services to be equitable, to be of good quality and to be affordable.

## Issues to be dealt with:

- minimizing service duplication
- interfacing with other services sector
- development of primary and community care
- integration of segmented social services
- Dependency on high cost institution based services is to be avoided

## ■ Social service sector

- government funded service open to competitive bidding on a cost and quality basis
- Service contracts awarded NGOs will focus on performance indicators that are measurable, and allow bidders more flexibility in determining the input factors
- NGOs have to adopt new measures in controlling spending and in personnel policy.

# The Rehabilitation Program Plan 2007: New planning approaches, new principles and new strategies in a new Era

- The macro environment
  - The first Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan (RPP) July 1976 and the first White Paper on Rehabilitation: “Integrating the Disabled into the Community: A United Effort” 1975
  - The second White Paper on Rehabilitation entitled “Equal Opportunities and Full Participation: A Better Tomorrow for All” in 1995.
  - The rapidly changing political system and economic challenges



## ■ The new planning process and mechanisms

- Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (RAC) and RPP in 2005

Two major strategic directions:

1. to promote cross-sectoral collaboration in providing a barrier-free environment and diversified services for persons with disabilities so as to facilitate their integration into the community
2. to empower persons with disabilities and their carers, so as to help them become valuable social capital

## ■ The new planning process and mechanisms

- The RPP Working Group comprised representatives from the RAC, persons with disabilities, rehabilitation agencies, self-help groups, business sector and relevant Government agencies
- From March 2005 to April 2007, the Working Group held a total of 16 meetings and four special meetings, as well as two briefing sessions and four consultation forums

## ■ The new planning process and mechanisms

- RPP proposed the way forward with long-term and short-term goals for rehabilitation service development in various key areas in accordance with the two strategic directions laid down by the RAC.

# Major Recommendations of the RPP 2007

- *Policy coverage of disability types*
  - On top of the former eight categories of disability, including autism, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, mental illness, physical disability, speech impairment, visceral disability and visual impairment, RPP includes two additional new categories, namely Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) and Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD).

# Major Recommendations of the RPP 2007

- *Strategic directions and objectives for key rehabilitation programmes*
  1. Prevention and Identification
  2. Medical Rehabilitation
  3. Pre-school Training
  4. Education
  5. Employment and Vocational Rehabilitation
  6. Residential Care
  7. Day Care and Community Support
  8. Development of Self-help Organisations

# Major Recommendations of the RPP 2007

- *Strategic directions and objectives for key rehabilitation programmes*
  9. Access and Transport
  10. Application of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)
  11. Recreational, Sports, Cultural and Arts Activities
  12. Public Education

# Major Recommendations of the RPP 2007

- *Implementation and monitoring of RPP*
  - The implementation of RPP is through enhanced collaboration between GOs and NGOs, the re-deployment of resources, as well as collaboration among the NGOs, the business sector and the Government.
  - The RAC will monitor the implementation of the various recommendations set out in the RPP on a regular basis.
  - The sub-committees under the RAC will also follow up on the detailed implementation of the recommendations and relevant concrete arrangements.

# Unresolved issues for further deliberations

- Defining disability
- The tripartite approach
- Resourcing for RPP



# Summary

*The year 2008 marks the launching of the new RPP in Hong Kong. The disability sector has hopes that RPP will bring strategic improvements within the next five years. However the challenges are still severe, as competitions among sectors for resources are getting more influenced by rapid political, social and economic changes. The disability sector should not be complacent, and the new RPP serves no more than a statement of political intent, rather than a firm commitment of obligations and responsibilities of concerned stakeholders.*